

40. Памятник актёру США, за которого весь фильм играли дублёры.

9-11 minutes

It turns out that there is such an actor, and a monument has been erected to him. The famous actor sits, lost in thought, on a large stone slab, his legs dangling, and with a mysterious "Gioconda smile" looks into the distance.



This actor was very popular in the late 60s - early 70s of the twentieth century, although he starred in only one big science fiction film. Episodes with his participation are shown from time to time in different programs. But

instead of him, stunt doubles were filmed in the frame all the time. And he only spoke at press conferences and signed autographs.

Usually, when they select stunt doubles for the main character, they try to make the stunt double as much like the original as possible. It is necessary to type in the search engine "stunt doubles of famous Hollywood actors", as the search engine will immediately give out several dozen such examples.



Stunt doubles for famous Hollywood actors.

In our case, the main character had several stunt doubles, but they all differed noticeably in both weight and height - they were all 30-40 cm lower than him. Now it is difficult to establish why the choice fell on such short artists. It is possible that when the film was launched, and its filming lasted two years, the actor for the main role had not yet been approved. And since combined shooting takes a lot of time to prepare, these shots with stuntmen were taken first. It is possible that there were other reasons, we will discuss them below, but the fact remains: the backup actors who were supposed to perform the jumps did not look like the main character. And this later played a bad joke.

If you have not guessed what kind of actor we are talking about, then here is a solution for you - this is Neil Armstrong, and the fantastic film is called "Landing on the Moon".

Neil Armstrong was very tall, 180 cm (Soviet cosmonauts were 15-20 cm lower), together with a spacesuit and a helmet, the height of the American astronaut was close to 195-200 cm. And the one who descended the ladder and then jumped near the lunar module during during the so-called "live broadcast from the moon", he was a little man. During a live broadcast, an inscription appeared on the muddy image "[ARMSTRONG ON MOON](#)".



A still from a live broadcast, this was the image in 1969. Caption: ARMSTRONG ON THE MOON

In 2009, Lowry Digital revamped the image, making it more contrasting and sharper. And now the height of the astronaut is easy to determine, since the length of the ladder and the step between its steps are known.

According to NASA (see page 12) , the distance between the steps was 9 inches. $9 \times 2.54 = 22.86$ cm.

LADDER

The **ladder** affixed to the primary strut of the forward landing gear assembly has nine rungs between two railings. The rungs are spaced nine inches apart; the railings have approximately 20 inches between centers. The top of the **ladder** is

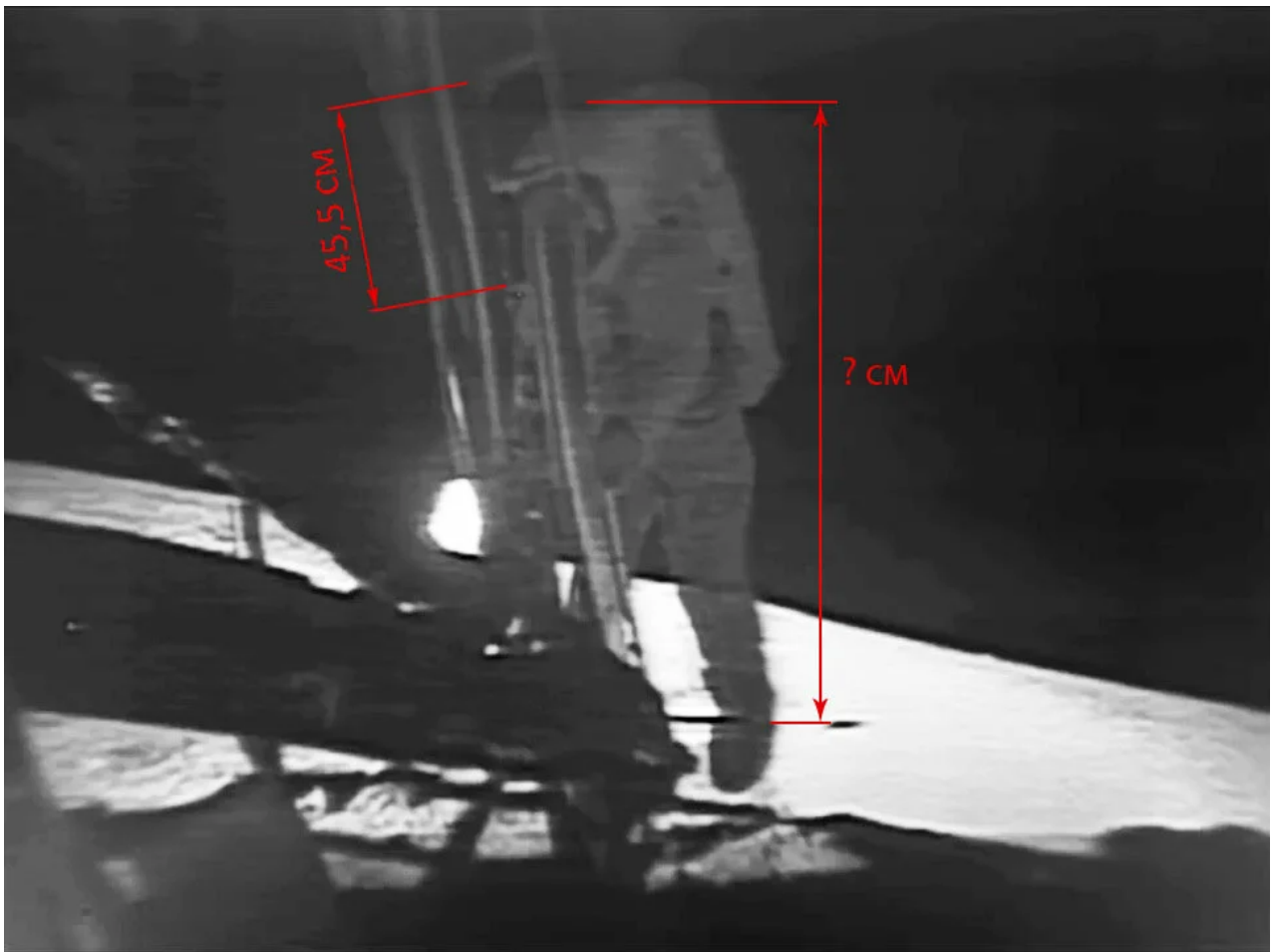
approximately 18 inches below the forward end of the platform on the outrigger; the **ladder** extends down to within 30 inches of the footpad. This allows the primary strut to telescope when the LM impacts on the lunar surface.

ЛЕСТНИЦА

Лестница, прикрепленная к основной стойке передней стойки шасси, имеет девять ступеней между двумя перилами. Переключины расположены на расстоянии девяти дюймов друг от друга; перила имеют примерно 20 дюймов между центрами. Верхняя часть лестницы находится примерно на 18 дюймов ниже переднего конца платформы на аутригере; лестница простирается вниз на 30 дюймов от подножки. Это позволяет основной стойке телескопировать, когда ЛМ ударяется о лунную поверхность.

Extract from NASA document and translation.

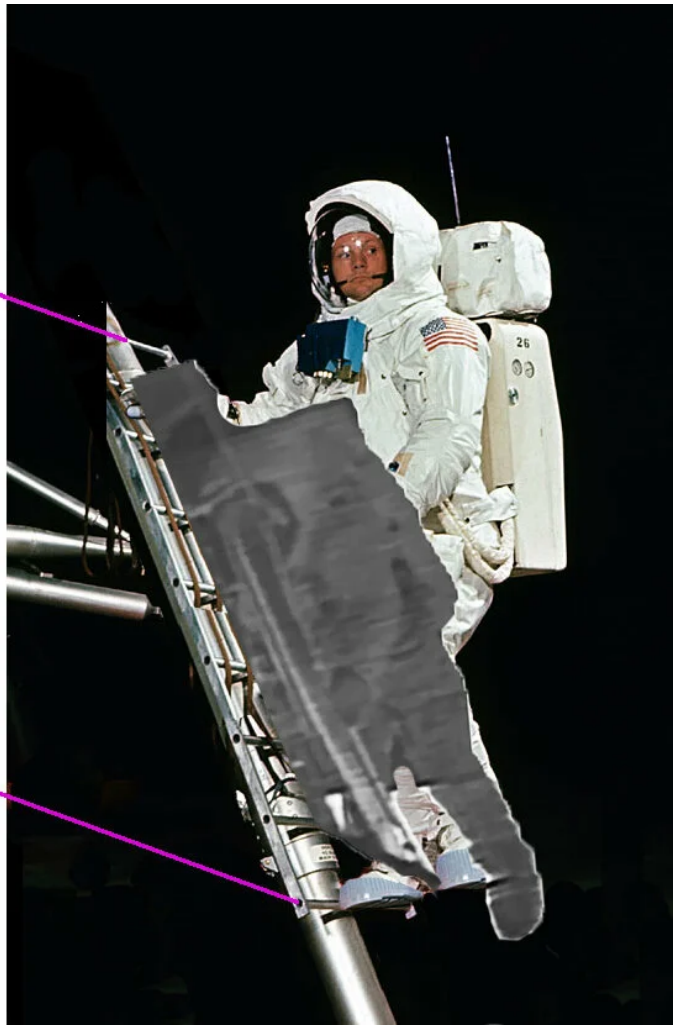
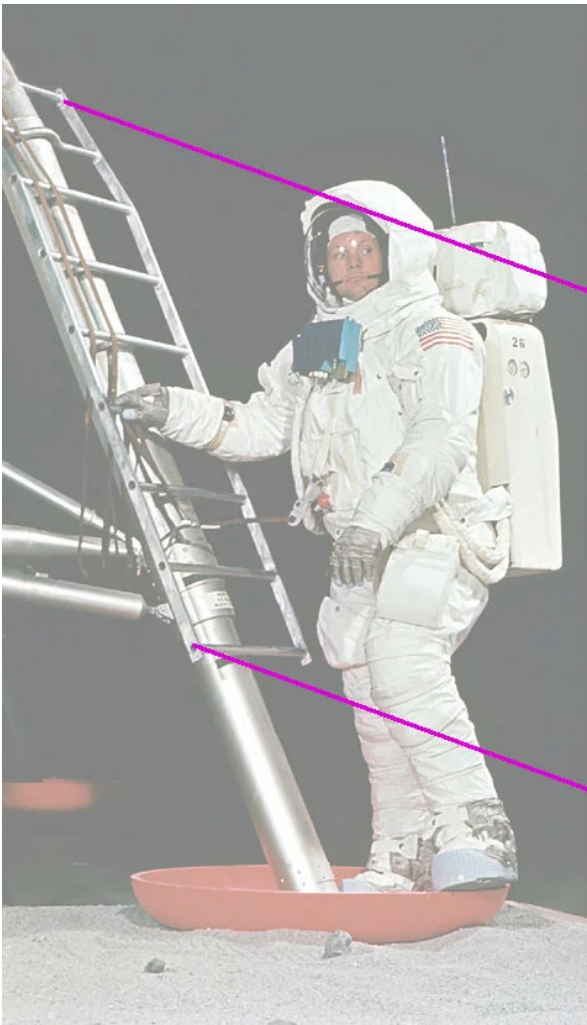
Two spans - about 45.5 cm. Knowing the distance between the steps of the stairs (two spans are 45.5 cm), we easily calculated the real height of the "lunar astronaut" - 140 cm.



The height of an astronaut in a spacesuit, from the top of the helmet to the heel, is 140 cm.

We even wondered why such an obvious thing, immediately striking the eye - the very small stature of astronauts on the so-called Moon - has not been described in detail by anyone? Therefore, our article appeared a year ago "[Who instead of Armstrong went down the stairs?](#)", where we compared the growth of the real Armstrong and the growth of his dwarf stunt double. The understudy was almost half a meter lower!

There are many photographs in the NASA archive of Apollo 11 astronauts, Armstrong and Aldrin training near the lunar module and holding the ladder with their hands in much the same way as in the historical video. We combined both photographs (terrestrial and "lunar") along a line passing through the middle of the steps of the stairs, so that 5 visible steps and the heel of the left foot coincide.



Comparison of the height of the real Armstrong (color image) and the "lunar astronaut" (black and white image). In the two pictures, at least 5 clearly distinguishable steps of the staircase are combined.

The conclusion is unambiguous: in the famous historical television frames of the "live report from the Moon" of July 20, 1969, it is not a real astronaut who descends along the ladder of the lunar module, but a dwarf wearing a reduced-size spacesuit. And such a miniature dwarf has been passed off by NASA for Armstrong for 50 years.

A television program entitled "Live from the Moon" lasted 2 hours 23 minutes, and all the time the audience was shown a "circus of midgets" in fake spacesuits.

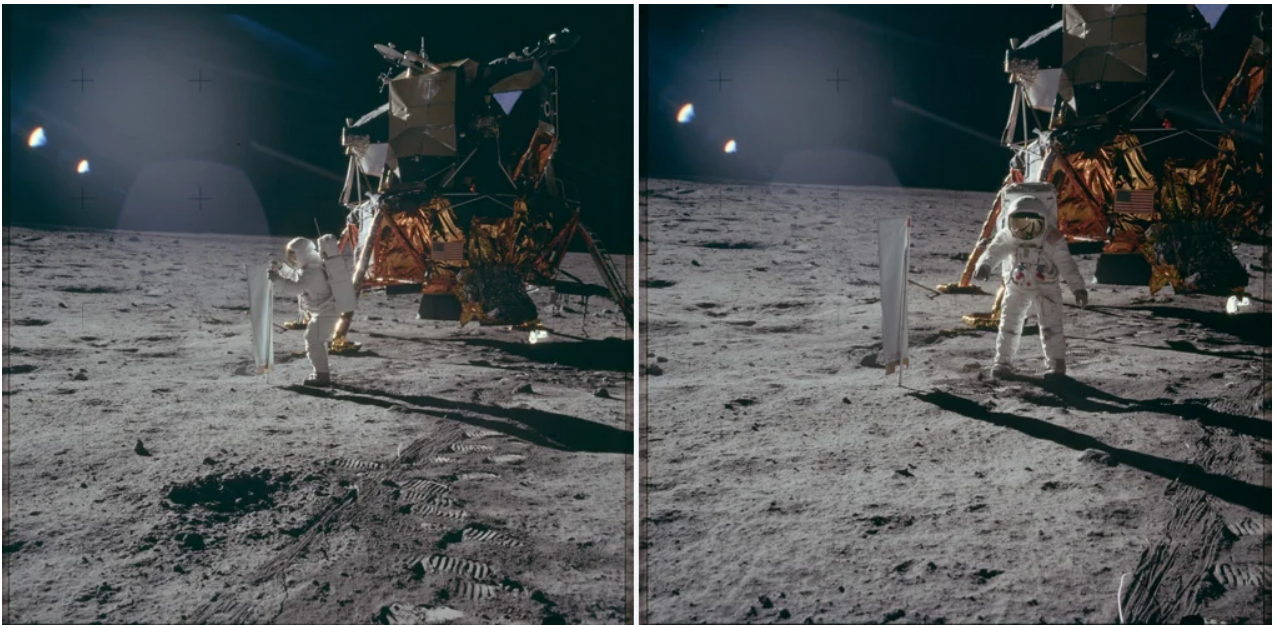


Lilliputian astronauts from "live broadcast from the moon".

The most interesting thing is that not only in the video, but even in the photographs allegedly taken on the surface of the moon, there is also no Armstrong. Instead of a tall, handsome Hollywood man, the role of Armstrong and his fellow traveler Aldrin in the "moon" photographs is played by undersized ... mannequins. These mannequins are about 30-40 cm shorter than their prototypes.



We hardly see Armstrong himself in the frame - he seems to be photographing his companion Baz Aldrin. At this point, the role of Armstrong as a photographer is played by a professional Hollywood photographer. And the astronauts themselves in the epic "Apollo 11" are presented in the form of mannequins.



Mannequins near the model of the lunar module.

Those who hear for the first time that mannequins are standing instead of living people in moon photographs are sincerely surprised: was it not possible to put real astronauts?

Let's count. A real astronaut in a real spacesuit will weigh about 170 kg. How can one then depict that his feet easily press on the lunar soil, because the force of gravity on the Moon is 6 times less than on Earth? So they put light mannequins weighing 28-30 kg instead of heavy actors. Mannequins are always supported on two legs. Otherwise they will fall. They stand with their arms and legs spread out. ... We wrote about this in the article "[How do you depict in a photograph that an astronaut on the moon is light?](#)"



Legs on the Apollo 11 mission.

Real actors would certainly screw it up: in different takes they would stand in different ways, move or take on something with the wrong hand or foot, go in the wrong direction, make unnecessary unnecessary traces, and so on. And the mannequin will stand and wait patiently, at least an hour, at least a whole shift, until the only necessary frame is filmed. Then they change the position of the arms or legs at the mannequin and take another shot.

Dummies cannot jump, so you will not see any jumping in the Apollo 11 moon photographs. Mannequins are always static. Sometimes compressed air is blown through a tube near the leg in order to get a small fountain of sand spray near the mannequin's leg.

According to theoretical calculations, with lunar gravity, an astronaut can jump about one and a half meters in height. Neil Armstrong said, *"I did some fairly high jumps," said Armstrong.* [He reported](#) that he was able to jump to the third rung of the lunar module ladder, which he estimated was five or six feet from the lunar surface. (*Neil Armstrong reported that he was able to jump to the third step of the lunar module ladder, which he estimated to be five or six feet from the lunar surface.*) [Reports11b, 89].

5-6 feet above the surface is about 150-180 cm tall. However, telling tales about fabulously high jumps is not to roll bags. NASA showed nothing of the kind. What we see in the videos is the usual earth bouncing 10-15 cm up.

And we discussed jumping up the rung of the ladder in the article ["Armstrong jumped back to the bottom rung of the stairs." How is this filmed?](#)

There, the ladder was detached from the lunar module and placed almost vertically instead of tilting 35 degrees. And the actor was pulled up with a lance.

And in the photographs - so generally complete static! Well, mannequins can't jump!

Three weeks after the flight of Apollo 11, in Houston, at the Manned Flight Center, on August 12, 1969 [press conference by](#) Collins, Aldrin and Armstrong, dedicated to the flight to the moon. The video shows that this is a very strange sight. It feels like the astronauts are at a funeral ceremony. There is neither the joy of the discoverers nor pride in the country in their faces, they look guilty, and in their eyes there is a hidden fear. Astronauts are very worried, nervously fiddling with fingers, squeezing one hand with the other, twisting a fountain pen, moving sheets of paper. For some reason, one of them took out a thick notebook from his portfolio, began to fidget in his chair, rubbing his little finger on his hand. All three folded their fingers, chokingly trying to speak.



Press conference August 12, 1969 From left to right: B. Aldrin, N. Armstrong, M. Collins.

During Aldrin's speech, Armstrong clenches his cheekbones, purses his lips and stares intently at the table. As one commentator wrote under the video, "I've seen happier guys at a funeral."



Now, after many years, we understand the Armstrong depression. He had to lie throughout the press conference. Not only did he not fly on Apollo 11, whose takeoff was shown live, Armstrong was not even allowed on the set, where the "landing on the moon" was filmed in the pavilion. Instead, "Armstrong on the Moon" was portrayed by a completely different person, small in stature, who did not look like a tall handsome Hollywood man Armstrong.

★

Cameraman L. Konovalov was with you. Until next time!